

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00327 070028Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00
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O 061710Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6258
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BELIZE 0327

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US GT UK BH
SUBJECT: PREMIER PRICE'S COMMENTS CONCERNING A
MULTILATERAL FORCE FOR BELIZE

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY FAREWELL CALL ON PREMIER PRICE,
THE LATTER SHOWED ME A TELEGRAM HE HAD RECEIVED FROM
MINISTER OF STATE TED ROWLANDS, IN WHICH ROWLANDS
QUOTED A REPORT HE HAD HAD FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT
OF THE PREMIER'S GOOD FRIDAY CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY
VANCE.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT PRICE HAD SAID THAT THE
BRITISH WERE WHOLEHEARTEDLY BEHIND PRICE'S EFFORTS TO
ESTABLISH A MULTILATERAL FORCE TO GUARANTEE BELIZEAN
SECURITY ONCE THE LATTER ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE.

3. THE ESSENCE OF ROWLANDS COMMUNICATION TO PRICE
WAS THAT THE LATTER HAD MISREPRESENTED HMG'S POSITION
IN THAT THE BRITISH WERE NOT PREPARED TO STATE THAT
THEY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A FORCE AS LONG AS THERE APPEARED
TO BE A CHANCE OF OBTAINING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

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4. PRICE THEN EXPLAINED TO ME THAT HIS REASON FOR
SHOWING ME THE CABLE WAS THAT HE FEARED HE MAY HAVE
BEEN MISQUOTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE REPORT OF THE
CONVERSATION WHICH HAD REACHED ROWLANDS. PRICE
EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT THE MULTILATERAL FORCE IDEA
WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF BEING WORKED OUT AND THAT
HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE

WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH WAS ALREADY AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT.

5. THE PREMIER SAID HE HAD WRITTEN TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ABOUT THIS AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING I MIGHT DO TO FURTHER HIS EFFORT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE GOOD FRIDAY CONVERSATION WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD PASSED TO THE BRITISH. I REPLIED THAT I WAS SURE HIS LETTER TO TODMAN WOULD BE GIVEN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVED, BUT I AGREED TO TRANSMIT HIS COMMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON GOVERNOR MCENTEE LATER IN THE DAY, HE CONFIDED THAT PRICE HAD BEEN GETTING RATHER OUT IN FRONT OF THE BRITISH LATELY. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO A FEELING BY THE PREMIER THAT IF HE DOES NOT SUCCEED IN LEADING BELIZE TO INDEPENDENCE BEFORE THE 1979 ELECTIONS, HE MAY NEVER SUCCEED AT ALL.
GAWF

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NNN

Message Attributes

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